Webinar recording available
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From Journaling and Personal Narratives to Letter Writing –
ELAR Webinar Part 3
Featuring Gerald Sharp & Jeanne Cantu
Agenda

- Introduction by Dr. Nilka Avilés, Sr. Education Associate, IDRA
- Invitation to Write
- Changes Affecting Letter Writing
- Going from a Journal Entry into a Letter
- Characteristics of a Letter and Components of a Letter
- ELAR TEKS and the Writing Process
- Reading Connections
- Topics to Encourage Letter Writing
- Teacher Expectations
- Letter Writing Going Public
- Professional Resources
Invitation to Write

Begin a letter to a political figure registering a concern having to do with a coronavirus policy.

Timer set for 3 minutes
Changing Attitudes Affecting Letter Writing

- Takes too long to write and receive a reply
- Popularity of text messaging
- Popularity of emails
Going From a Journal Idea into a Letter

- Thank you to a public figure for role in coronavirus response
- Expressing an opinion about some part of the coronavirus policy
- Registering a complaint about personal treatment during the pandemic
- Offering suggestions to improve public policy in pandemics
- Seeking information in order to recommend future changes
- Responding to Stay at Home ordinance
- Responding to restrictions for personal movement
Characteristics of a Letter

- Form – Introduction, Body, Closing
- Maintains focus of why you are writing
- Reasons supporting opinions
- Authentic writing opportunity
- Addresses a particular person
- More formal voice
Components of a Letter

- Date
- Address
- Salutation
- Body
- Closing
- Signature
ELAR TEKS

K-12 The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts...
• K-12 The student is expected to plan by generating ideas for writing...; develop drafts...by organizing ideas...

K-12 The student uses genre characteristics and craft to compose multiple texts that are meaningful...
• 1 – dictate or compose correspondence such as thank you notes or letters
• 2-3 – compose correspondence such as thank you notes or letters
• 4-5 – compose correspondence that requests information
• 6-8 – compose correspondence that reflects an opinion, registers a complaint or requests information
• 9-12 – compose correspondence in a professional or friendly structure
The Writing Process

• Prewriting (from topics found in journal entries)
• Drafting
• Revising
• Editing
• Publishing
Reading Connections

• Can I Be Your Dog? – Troy Cummings
• Click, Clack, Moo, Cows that Type – Doreen Cronin
• The Day the Crayons Quit – Drew Daywalt
• Dear Mr. Blueberry – Simon James     Querido Salvatierra – Simon James
• Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School – Mark Teague
• I Wanna Iguana – Kren Kaufman Orloff
• Old Henry – Joan W. Blos
• A Letter to My Teacher – Deborah Hopkinson
• Mango Moon – Diane de Anda     La luna mango - Diane
• Sincerely Yours, Writing Your Own Letter – Nancy Loewen
• Sitti’s Secrets – Naomi Shihab Nye
• Yours Truly, Goldilocks – Alma Flor Ada     Atentamente, Ricitos de Oro
• “Letter from Birmingham Jail” – Martin Luther King, Jr.
Topics to Encourage Letter Writing

- Stay at home orders
- Wearing a face mask
- Social distancing
- Closing parks, movie theaters, restaurants
- Closing schools and churches
- Not allowing relatives in hospitals
- Stopping visits to nursing homes
- Lack of availability of COVID-19 testing in the community
Teacher Expectations

• Through teacher videotaping:
  - Direct instruction – guiding students through unfamiliar genre
  - Teacher modeling
  - Think Alouds

• Students write in the first person

• Evaluation
  - Teacher-created rubrics
  - Level of support for ideas
Letter Writing Going Public

- Dictating to family member
- Mailing letters
- Online messaging
- Communicating via email to public official

(Options cover various learning styles and preferences.)
Acts of Teaching: How to Teach Writing, Joyce Armstrong Carroll & Edward E. Wilson

- Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Smart Briefs
- National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE); ELA Smart Briefs
- BBC – America
- New York Times
- National Public Radio (NPR)
- Texas Public Radio (TPR)
Poll:

Have you gained knowledge in how to move from journal writing to letter writing?
Thank you for participating in this webinar!
Closing Statements / Share Ideas

Share in the chat your successes and challenges with students writing letters.
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